

Title:	Ruby Helen Lees Fonds, 1939-1940, 1944, 1957, n.d.		
Creator:	Ruby Helen Lees		
Dates of Material:	1939-1940, 1944, 1957, n.d.	Record Group Number:	RG 595
Summary of Contents:	<p>1.1 Correspondence</p> <p>Two telegrams sent through the Canadian National and Cable addressed to Arthur Lees at Albert St., St. Catharines, Ont. These telegrams are signed "Ruby". One states that they had arrived safely and the other says that they "are leaving tonight and will wire or call from Montreal". The telegrams were sent from Baie Comeau, Quebec on Sept. 14 and Sept 19, 1939</p> <p>Two letters to Helen and Art from "Bill" (William Coolin) who is stationed in England. In one of the letters, he congratulates them on the birth of their son, Peter Joseph Lees, 1940</p> <p>A note of congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Lees from Celeste and Arthur Schmon who are at the Boca Raton Club, Florida, 1940</p> <p>A letter addressed to Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Lees on Kernahan Street, St. Catharines from "Bill" (Captain W. S. Coolin) at the Canadian Records Office, London, England, 1940</p> <p>An income tax form for Ruby Helen Lees for the year ended Dec. 31, 1940. Her employer during this time was the Ontario Paper Company Limited, Thorold, Ontario, 1940</p> <p>A Christmas card to Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Lees from Major W.S. Coolin, London, England, 1944</p> <p>A letter to Mrs. Arthur Lees conveying shock and grief at the fact that Mrs. Lees is in the hospital, signed by Arthur Schmon, 1944</p> <p>A letter to Mr. Arthur Lees of Lake Street, St. Catharines responding to an inquiry about summer work for Peter Lees. This is signed by Arthur Schmon, 1957</p> <p>1.2 Photographs</p> <p>Framed photograph – Ruby Helen Cassidy/Lees is the lady standing 2nd from left, 1 b&w photo, n.d.</p> <p>Office with 2 unidentified men; Office with man and [Ruby Cassidy/Lees] and a postcard showing the ship that Mr. and Mrs. Schmon travelled to</p>		

	<p>Europe on (the S.S. Rex), 2 b&w photos, 1 b&w postcard, n.d.</p> <p>Four black and white photographs of Helen Ruby [also listed as Ruby Helen] Lees with unidentified people, 4 b&w photos, n.d.</p> <p>A black and white photograph with Helen Ruby Lees (seated) with Giles Belleau, Fr. Mann, Kay Burnie and Phil Beauregard, 1 b&w photo, n.d.</p> <p>Black and white photo of Bill [William Coolin] in front of a tent, 1 b&w photo, n.d.</p> <p>Black and white photo of Bill [William Coolin]. The people in this photo are part of the office staff in London, England. Some of them are Canadians. He speaks about them in his letter of July 29, 1940</p> <p>A coloured photo of a silver tea set given to Mr. and Mrs. Lees by Arthur and Celeste Schmon, 1 col. photo, n.d.</p> <p>1.3 Memorandum of Arthur Schmon's trip to Italy, 1939</p> <p>A 5 page document, detailing Arthur Schmon's impressions of Italy in 1939. Mr. Schmon described the impression that Mussolini left on the people of Italy. Mussolini was viewed as "one of the people", despite his harsh disciplinary methods. Mussolini had built Italy up after the war and changed Italy from a defeated nation, to one of optimism. Mussolini questioned why the people of America did not have a favourable opinion of him. Schmon also wrote about Italy's dealings with Ethiopia. He spoke to a Fascist in Rome by the name of Console Casertano who explained Italy's Jewish policy to Schmon. A copy and summary of the document are included, 1939</p> <p>1.4 Memorandum of Arthur Schmon's trip to Germany, 1939</p> <p>A 10 ½ page document outlines Mr. Schmon's impressions of Germany in 1939. Both Arthur and Celeste felt that they were "objects of curiosity" in an atmosphere of tension. Mr. Schmon described Germany as a military camp surrounded by homes, workshops and culture. His opinion was that the German people were ignorant of what was going on. Schmon admitted that Hitler was doing well for the people, in that business was doing well and people were generally employed. He wondered at how such a revered man could be so cruel to the Jews.</p> <p>A copy and summary of the document are included, 1939</p>
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Physical Description / Condition:	The memorandums are written on fragile paper and the words are somewhat faded. The memorandum regarding Italy is missing the last page.		
Administrative/ Biographical Sketch:	<p>Helen Ruby [sometimes listed as Ruby Helen] Lees (nee Cassidy) was Arthur Schmon's private secretary at the Ontario Paper Mill in Thorold, Ontario. She was born on January 10, 1897 in St. Catharines, Ontario and died on October 14, 1944 in Niagara Falls, Ontario. She was married to Arthur E. Lees.</p> <p>Captain/Major William S. Coolin was employed at the paper company.</p>		
Location:	Brock University Archives		
Source Information:	Donated by Judith Lees, daughter-in-law of Mrs. Lees on April 27, 2017		
Described by:	Anne Adams	Date:	May 16, 2017